

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/722,345

Examiner

Hien D. Vu

Applicant(s)

KURIMOTO, NAOYA

Art Unit

2833

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the communication on 6/3/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-12, 15, 16, 19 and 20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/455,804.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 11/26/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 6/04/04
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



**HIEN VU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brian Hanlon on 6/03/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 2-4 and 17-18 have been canceled.

In the Preliminary Amendment, filed 2/26/04, page 2, line 6, "pending" has been changed to -- now patent number 6,655,998 --.

Claim 15, line 2, -- including a locking member thereon -- has been inserted after "wall"; line 5, "receive" has been changed to -- engage --; last line "." Has been changed to --, -- and new lines have been inserted as follows:

-- wherein said end includes a face having openings, and said protruding portion is accessible through said openings,

wherein a position of said retainer is visually determinable through said openings during movement between said first and second positions. --.

Claim 19, line 2, "having" has been changed to -- comprising a wall including a locking member thereon and having --; line 5, "an opening, said face being adapted to receive" have been changed to -- openings, said end being adapted to engage --; line 18, "opening" has been changed to -- openings --.

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 9-12, 15-16 and 19-20 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the retainer being wholly and transversely received in the retaining cavity of the housing in the first and second positions in the retaining cavity and a protrusion of the retainer accessible from an exterior of the housing through openings in the face of the retainer.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hien D. Vu whose telephone number is 703-308-2009. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

HV  
6/4/04

  
**HIEN VU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**